



# Online Manual Scoring Made Possible by TAO Grader

TAO Grader provides an easy-to-use, modern user interface for open-response item scoring that natively integrates with TAO Studio and TAO Advance, designed based on our extensive research to understand the specific needs of real users.

## Grade Open Response Assessment Questions Online with Ease

While TAO's automated scoring functionality can relieve the grading work for many types of assessment questions, there may still be test sections that require written responses and in turn require human intervention for appropriate scoring.

TAO Grader, TAO's online manual scoring solution, makes it easy to assign scorers and score reviewers both to whole tests, as well as specific assessment questions based on subject matter for more effective, faster and consistent open response grading, and control over the end-to-end assessment cycle.

TAO Grader is integrated to work out of the box with TAO's components, offering a WCAG compliant, modern interface that is intuitive and easy to use, and flexible to suit both national and classroom assessment contexts.

The screenshot shows the TAO Grader interface for a question titled "Scenario 2 - Question 2". The question text is: "Write an essay with no more than 200 words about the Australian Gold Rushes that happened in 1851. During the Australian gold rush, starting in 1851, significant numbers of workers moved from elsewhere in Australia and overseas to where gold had been discovered. Gold had been found several times before but the colonial government of New South Wales (Victoria did not become a separate colony until 1 July 1851) had suppressed the news out of the fear that it would reduce the workforce and so destabilise the economy. [3]"

The interface includes a grading rubric with four columns for different criteria:

Punctuation	See criteria		
1	2	3	4

Below the rubric, there are checkboxes for "Sentence Structure" and "Spelling", each with a "See criteria" link. A text box for "Type a note for this review" is also present, with a character count of "500 of 500 characters remaining".

At the bottom, there are navigation buttons: "SEE OVERVIEW" and "SEE ANSWERS". The overall completion status is "50%".

## Inside TAO Grader

- ✓ Asynchronous team scoring
- ✓ Configure campaigns for Classroom based scoring
- ✓ Configure campaigns for SME based scoring by subject matter
- ✓ Assign user roles for scorers and reviewers
- ✓ Read behind scoring
- ✓ Flag scorer/item pairs & leave comments for scoring QA
- ✓ Define multi-trait scoring
- ✓ Highlight responses
- ✓ Set up grading rubrics
- ✓ Support grading in multiple languages
- ✓ Manage scoring projects and workflows, monitor progress and reassign tasks
- ✓ Full compliance with WCAG accessibility requirements
- ✓ Student to scorer anonymization
- ✓ Desktop and tablet responsive user interface
- ✓ Seamless integration and data exchange with TAO

## The Role of Scorers & Reviewers

TAO Grader defines two roles for users who are scoring assessment items: **Scorers** and **Reviewers**. While scorers complete the initial grading, you can also designate questions for to be reviewed by reviewers for grading Quality Assurance, based on subject category or user defined test-taker groups. This is known as Read Behind Scoring in TAO.

ALL

INCOMPLETE

BOOKMARKED

The Monster (4)

Task	Format	Grammatical accuracy	Mechanics	Understanding	Word Choice	Total score	Bookmarked	Note
59	3/4	3/4	4/4	4/4	3/4	✓ 17/20		
58	3/4	3/4	4/4	3/4	4/4	✓ 17/20		
57	4/4	3/4	3/4	2/4	3/4	✓ 15/20		
56	4/4	3/4	4/4	2/4	3/4	✓ 16/20		
55	3/4	3/4	4/4	2/4	3/4	✓ 15/20		
54	3/4	3/4	4/4	3/4	3/4	✓ 14/20		

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All done, everything is scored!

SUBMIT THE SCORE

## Multi Trait Scoring

Sometimes, different aspects of a response need to be awarded separate scores, meaning that multiple scores are needed for one item. This is described as multi-trait scoring.

In TAO, designating multi-trait scoring means that an item has more than one outcome which needs to be manually scored. For example, an essay question might take into account traits like, “grammatical accuracy” and “word choice,” which apply to the same questions, but require different scores.

Scoring task 1 of 100  
Test / Question 1 / Student 1

Reading [see scoring criteria](#)

0 1 2 3 4 5

Analysis [see scoring criteria](#)

0 1 2 3 4 5

Writing [see scoring criteria](#)

0 1 2 3 4 5

Type a note...

[SEE OVERVIEW](#)

As you read the passage below, consider how Paul Bogard uses

- evidence, such as facts or examples, to support claims.
- reasoning to develop ideas and to connect claims and evidence.
- stylistic or persuasive elements, such as word choice or appeals to emotion, to add power to the ideas expressed.

Adapted from Paul Bogard, "Let There Be Dark." ©2012 by Los Angeles Times. Originally published December 21, 2012.

At my family's cabin on a Minnesota lake, I knew woods so dark that my hands disappeared before my eyes. I knew night skies in which meteors left smoky trails across sugary spreads of stars. But now, when 8 of 10 children born in the United States will never know a sky dark enough for the Milky Way, I worry we are rapidly losing night's natural darkness before realizing its worth. This winter solstice, as we cheer the days' gradual movement back toward light, let us also remember the irreplaceable value of darkness.

All life evolved to the steady rhythm of bright days and dark nights. Today, though, when we feel the closeness of nightfall, we reach quickly for a light switch. And too little darkness, meaning too much artificial light at night, spells trouble for all.

MY HIGHLIGHTS

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## Watch the Product Video Additional Resources

- User Guide
- Training Courses

www.taotesting.com

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## TAO Grader FAQs

**Q:** How does TAO Grader ensure unbiased scoring?

**A:** Individual test-takers names are obfuscated in TAO Grader to eliminate subconscious bias by scorers. Additionally designating a Reviewer to confirm or challenge the original Scorer's rating further ensures an objective approach.

**Q:** Can TAO Grader be integrated with other QTI-based assessment platforms?

**A:** No, today TAO Grader must be connected with TAO.

**Q:** Which interactions are supported for scoring in TAO Grader?

**A:** TAO Grader supports all interaction types in TAO, including custom PCIs.

**Q:** How does Read Behind Scoring work?

**A:** Read behind scoring can be enabled in TAO to allow reviewers to double check a scorer's marking for a particular item. Reviewers can either confirm or override a scorer's original response.

**Q:** What data is collected from TAO Grader and integrated with assessment results?

**A:** All marks for the traits you are scoring an item on are returned to TAO's reporting module. Working data, like notes and highlights, made while scoring an item are not returned with the results. TAO Grader does not store any personal or identifiable student information.

**Q:** How can I integrate the scoring data from TAO Grader with my student records system?

**A:** If your student records system supports LTI, you can have student scoring data from TAO Grader returned as an overall assessment mark (a number between 1 & 10) in your gradebook.

**Q:** How long does it take for scoring results to be returned from TAO Grader?

**A:** Once a scoring project is submitted, the data will appear in TAO automatically. However, if read behind scoring is enabled, items will be sent to the reviewer to review and submit, and then returned to TAO's reporting module.

**Q:** How does item/pair flagging work (also known as Rate the Rater)

**A:** If you are reviewing a scorer for a specific item, and feel that the original scorer was inaccurate in their marking or does not understand how to score that particular item type, you can flag the Scorer/Item pair for review.

## Want to learn more about TAO Grader?

Let's get you in touch with a solutions specialist today!

Contact Us

